Cinerem

— with definitions taken from a page in Anne Carson’s Nox

The residue from a fire; ashes (we stayed in hotel rooms in different cities); ashes of various materials (in bed once he blessed every part of my body); oxide of copper;
(blessings on your thumbs he said like a high priest in his own other language); the extinct or apparently extinct ashes of a fire (I once knelt at a magnolia because the magnolia was blooming);
residue (and behind me he was breathing) from a fire; ashes (he breathed what I’d breathed, wanted each of my longings); hot ember by which (why does the petal smell like lemons is what he asked me) the spent or smoldering “fires” of love (If I said I remember his voice I would be lying); hot ember by which (once he stabbed me with a fork in my gum while I was talking); oxide of copper (one of the tines broke the skin and my gum started bleeding); ashes regarded as (blessings on your neck, on your breasts); the result of waste or destruction (If I said I remember I would mean I am covered in fish gills); ember (I would mean we are water and we are moving through water); of copper (And he knew how to suck all the sacred up); ember (And I sucked all the sacred up with him); by which (I am saying I didn’t doubt it); the bitter ash of men and nights (He was a mean man.
He was a devil in the myth that I placed in the water); of waste (I am saying he was a story, an edge with no falling); whether cremated or not (I could write on his chest, you’re my cloud, passing over); the spent or smoldering fires
of love (and I know about boredom); or a stage
in existence (and I know about choices)
ashes of various materials (don’t think I’m not happy);
as in the extinct (although I could now call him
I don’t call him); ashes of a fire (or I could just
hear his voice) of love (I would like to hear his voice);
residue. Ashes as a condition of the body.